

R E M A R K S

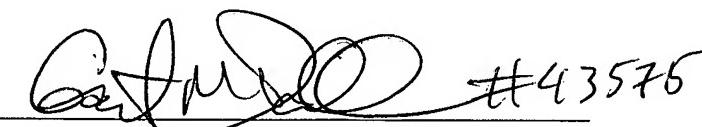
The above amendments to the specification and claims places the application into better form prior to examination.

**Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.**

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this Concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 0-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:   
Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066  
*for*

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
703/205-8000

RCS/GMD:bmp

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1, has been amended as follows:

--5. The resin composition according to the above item 3,  
wherein component (C) is at least one compound selected from the  
group consisting of ZnO, zinc acetate, zinc stearate, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>,  
[tetrabutoxide] tetrabutoxy titanate and tetraisopropoxy  
titanate.--

The paragraph beginning on page 12, line 6, has been  
amended as follows:

As the liquid-crystal polyester (B) of the invention, known  
polyesters called "thermotropic liquid-crystal polymers" can be  
used. Examples thereof include thermotropic liquid-crystal polymers  
having, as a main constitutional unit, p-hydroxybenzoic acid and  
polyethylene terephthalate, thermotropic liquid-crystal polyesters  
having as a main constitutional unit, p-hydroxybenzoic acid and 2-  
hydroxy-6-naphthoic acid and thermotropic liquid-crystal polyesters  
having, as a main constitutional unit, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, 4,4'-  
dihydroxybiphenyl and terephthalic acid. As the liquid-crystal

[polymer] polyester (B) to be used in the invention, although no particular limitation is imposed on them, those having the following structural units (i) and (ii), and optionally (iii) and/or (iv) are preferred.

The paragraph beginning on page 13, line 16 to page 14, line 4, has been amended as follows:

The preferred structural formula (iii) is a structural unit prepared from ethylene glycol, hydroquinone, 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl, 2,6-dihydroxynaphthalene or bisphenol A, of which that from ethylene glycol, 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or hydroquinone is more preferred, with that from ethylene glycol or 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl being particularly preferred. The preferred structural formula (iv) is a structural unit prepared from terephthalic acid, isophthalic acid or 2,6-dicarboxynaphthalene, of which that from terephthalic acid or isophthalic acid is more preferred.

The paragraph beginning on page 29, line 6 to page 30, line 12 has been amended as follows:

Methods for synthesizing the polyhedral oligomeric [silsesquioxaneare] silsesquioxane are described, for instance, in "J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1965, 87, 4313" (Brown et al.), "J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1989, 111, 1741" (Feher et al.) and "Organometallics 1991, 10, 2526" (Feher et al.). According to one of these methods, the

polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane is obtained in the form of crystals by reacting cyclohexyltriethoxysilane and tetramethylammonium hydroxide in the presence of a catalyst in a solution of water and methylisobutylketone. Further, "Chem. Commun., 1998, 1279 (Feher et al.)" describes that a trisilanol or ditrisilanol containing compounds represented by formulas (10) to (12) is simultaneously formed during the production of a completely condensed polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane, or is synthesized by partially cracking a completely condensed polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane using a fluoro acid or tetramethylammonium hydroxide. To analyze and identify the structure of a polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane, for example, an X-ray structure analysis was conducted according to the method described in "Alkiv Kemi, 16, 209 (1960)" (Larsson et al.). Further, as described for instance in "[Innorag.] Inorgan. Chem. 2, 189 (1963)" (Vogt et al.), a polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane can be simply identified using an infrared absorption spectrum or NMR.

The paragraph beginning on page 35, line 22 to page 36, line 18 has been amended as follows:

In the melt-kneading method with the twin-screw extruder, it is preferred to set the screw rotation speed (N) to be from 200 to 600 rpm and the amount of heat exposure ( $\alpha$ ) to be 50 or less, wherein the amount of heat exposure ( $\alpha$ ) =  $D^3 \times N/Q \times 10^{-4}$ ;

D (mm) = diameter of the screw of the twin-screw extruder;

N (rpm) = screw rotation speed; and

Q (kg/hr) = extrusion rate of the resins from the extruder.

In the present invention, the amount of heat exposure ( $\alpha$ ) is preferably 50 or less, more preferably 45 or less, especially preferably 36 or less. When the amount of heat exposure ( $\alpha$ ) exceeds 50, damage of a polyphenylene ether by heat increases, and the balance of impact resistance, chemical resistance and fluidity is impaired. For example, from the viewpoint of reducing the amount of heat exposure ( $\alpha$ ) and improving productivity, it is preferable that the extrusion rate (Q) of the extruder equipped with a screw having a specific diameter (D) is higher. However, the screw rotation speed (N) is preferably 200 to 600 rpm, more preferably 250 to 600 rpm, most preferably 280 to 600 rpm. Although the amount of heat exposure ( $\alpha$ ) becomes smaller as the screw rotation speed (N) is slower, a screw rotation speed (N) that is too slow tends to cause insufficient mixing and insufficient impact strength of the composition. Although the screw diameter (D) of the twin-screw extruder depends on the scale of the extruder to be used, a screw having a diameter of 10 to 200 mm is usually used.

The paragraph beginning on page 50, line 11 to page 51, line 1 has been amended as follows:

Pellets were obtained by melt-kneading the polyphenylene ether (PPE-1 to 8) and the liquid-crystal polyester (LCP-1 to 3) at a ratio (parts by weight) shown in Table 1 using a twin-screw extruder ("ZSK-25", manufactured by Werner & Pfleiderer Corp.; D=25mm, L/D=42), which was set at 270 °C at ZONE 1 (on the feeding side), and 310 °C at ZONES 2 to 7 and a die head, and which was equipped with a vent port, at a screw rotation speed (N) of 300 rpm and at a extrusion rate of 14.6 kg/hr. The obtained pellets were molded in the manner mentioned above and physical properties of the molded articles were evaluated. Further, as described above, using strip specimens having a thickness of 3.2 mm, the weight ratio of the polymer having a molecular weight of 20,000 or less contained in the polyphenylene ether resin and the molecular weight distribution  $[(M_m/M_n)] \underline{(M_w/M_n)}$  of the polyphenylene ether resin were measured. The molecular weight obtained and evaluation results of physical properties of the composition are shown together in Table 1. In the table, "HIPS" and "GF" indicates high impact polystyrene ("H9405", manufactured by A & M Styrene Co., Ltd.,) and glass fibers ("Microglass RES03-TP30", manufactured by NGF Company), respectively.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 5. (Amended) The resin composition according claim 3, wherein component (C) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ZnO, zinc acetate, zinc stearate, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, [tetrabutoxide] tetrabutoxy titanate and tetraisopropoxy titanate.